

THE GLORY THAT WAS HARAPPA

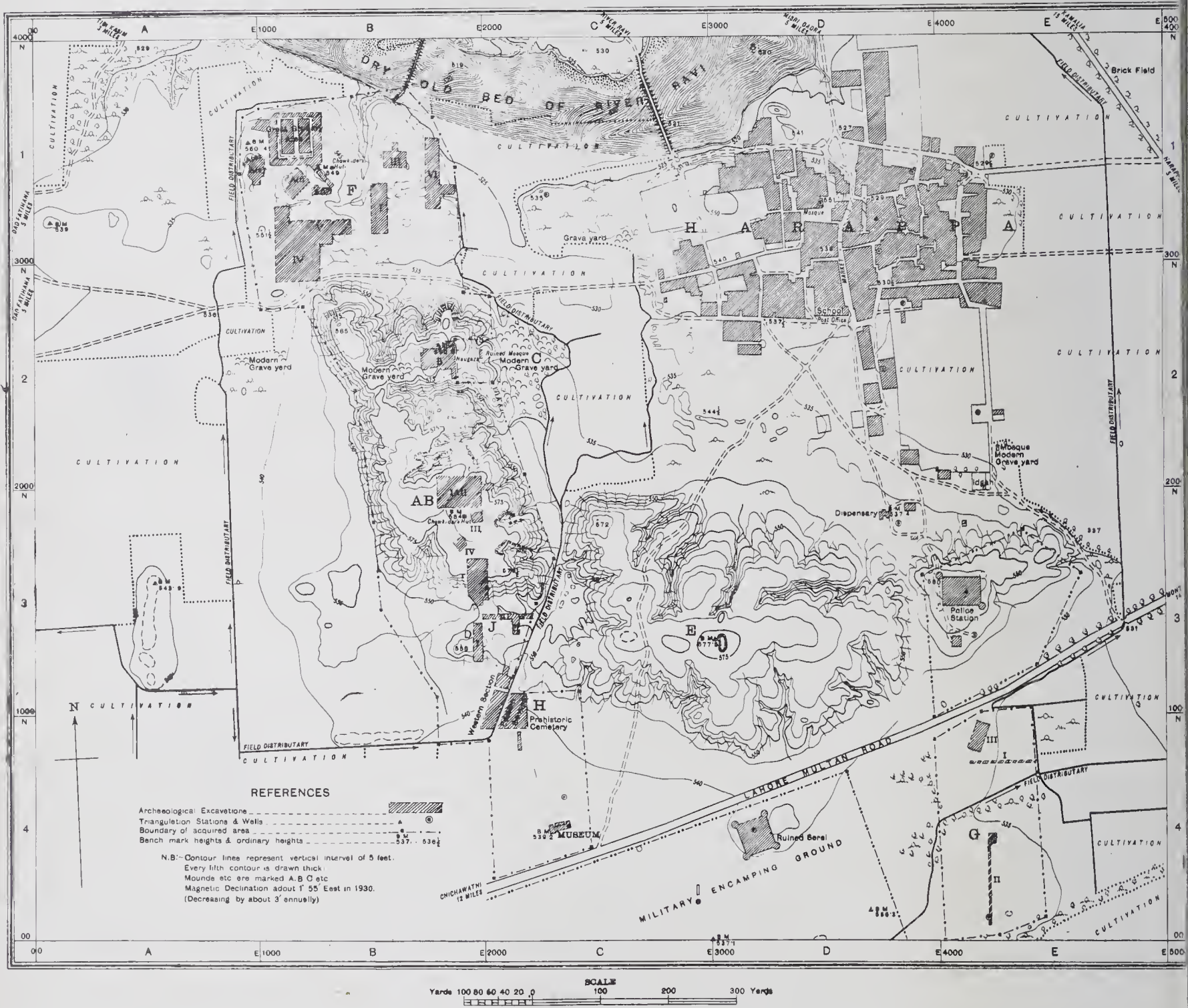
Dr. F. A. KHAN S.I., T.Pk.



Great Granary

\$3.00
BERKELOW.

THE PREHISTORIC SITE
OF
HARAPPA





Excavated remains

HARAPPA

Our country is very old, but in the absence of tangible material remains which could be located in any part before 1920 and which could be definitely assigned to a very early period, many scholars who studied the subject and who were familiar with the relics of civilization in the past in other lands would not admit the claim to be considered



A section of the mud brick fortification of the citadel

along with such other more ancient civilizations as South Iran, Mesopotamia and Egypt. But to anyone who glances at the map of the old world, it is patent that our country is one of the most favoured regions where the development of human culture is most likely to have occurred in the early history of the human race. The existence of man in the earlier stages of human progress depended more or less on his ability to attain mastery over the lower animals which led to what is called the 'hunting stage' of human history. Here, geologists, with the help of archaeologists have endeavoured to find out some of the earliest localities where primitive man has lived and they have found material for their study in the area known as Potwar Plateau. Our present concern is not with these early relics of a period when man was striving for existence in the midst of the rich fauna which inhabited the Potwar Plateau in those early days. That stage had long been passed when civilized man made his first appearance in the Indus Valley and Baluchistan.

The history of early civilizations is confined to such regions as Mesopotamia and Egypt, that is the valley of the two rivers, Euphrates and Tigris, and the Nile, or again the valley of the Karun in South Iran. But, in our country, in the valley of the Indus, which certainly covers an area much more extensive than those we have mentioned, it was believed that conditions were probably not so favourable for the growth of human civilization as in the other countries. For a long time scholars and archaeologists who have been studying the archaeology of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Iran were not at all satisfied that anything in the valley of the Indus could bear comparison with or could be spoken of in the same breath as the remains in other

ancient tracts. The existence, however, of a great fertile valley such as that of the Indus must in itself have been considered a very great attraction by the inhabitants of less favoured regions in the north-west and the course of history down the ages has demonstrated how invaders have become settled inhabitants adding to the complex of races in different stages of cultural development. To the west of the Indus Valley is a region, mostly desolate, but which, according to the conclusions which archaeologists have come to, must have been the home of a number of races who migrated west-ward and east-ward and were the progenitors of the main civilizations. Our country, in the absence of any of these materials which were not available until 1920-21, presents a strange contrast to the strong unity and unbroken continuity of cultural history that we find in the valleys of the Nile and the Euphrates and the Tigris.

Archaeologists have been busy in calculating the different ages which could be assigned to the cultures found at different sites in Mesopotamia and Egypt. But in our country, such results were impossible as there was no material on the earliest period such as has been left by Greek historians in both Babylon and Egypt on which work could be directed. The first effort in our archaeological researches was thus naturally directed to the elucidation of geographical data derived from passing invaders like Alexander or pilgrims from other countries like Fa-Hien and Hieun-Tsang from China.

General Cunningham, a pioneer archaeologist, in his comprehensive survey of the remains in the former provinces of Sind, Panjab, and North West Frontier, was mainly



A general view

Covered drains





Worker's platforms

guided by the descriptions of places left by Fa-Hien and Hieun-Tsang. As knowledge always proceeds from the known to the unknown, no particular attempts were made by early archaeologists to trace the earliest remains of civilization on our soil, although some seals with letters in pictographic script attracted the attention of General Cunningham. The existence of seals indicated to him some early civilization and these came from only one place in the Panjab, namely the ancient city of Harappa.

Under the guidance of J. Marshall, systematic efforts were made at the Buddhist sites surveyed by General Cunningham but the excavations of the religious establishments and city sites in the former provinces of the North West Frontier, Panjab and Sind fell far short of the results achieved in other countries to the west. Our country was still in the unfortunate position of not being able to substantiate any claim to be considered as the home of a civilization extending beyond the days of the Persian Empire. At this stage, archaeological investigation was conducted at Charsadda, Shah-ji-ki Dheri near Peshawar, Takhtbhai, Jamal Garhi and Taxila.

In 1922, an officer of the Department of Archaeology, in the former Government of India, managed to scrape out some money from the grant at his disposal for the preservation and excavation of remains of a Buddhist stupa at Mohenjodaro. He commenced the work around the stupa whose mud-brick core stands at a height of about seventy feet from the surrounding plain. He uncovered some thirty cells of the monastery and evidence of their date was forthcoming

in the shape of coins of Vasudeva, the Kushan King of second century A.D. He penetrated deeper down and came upon a seal which brought to his mind the well-known seals of Harappa discovered by General Cunningham which had pictographic writing. He found two more seals but even then the pre-historic character of his finds was not fully apparent to him. Another officer who was about the same time excavating at Harappa, had also discovered seals, painted pottery and other objects which no doubt showed entirely different culture from what was known from the excavations of Buddhist period sites. Marshall then perceived a striking resemblance between the finds made at the two sites. When he had established affinities between these relics of civilization about which nothing was upto that moment known he published the results. This great discovery excited the interest of scholars all over the world and helped them to concentrate their attention on the fact that the ruined cities—Harappa and Mohenjodaro of an unknown civilization had been found in the Indus Valley.

The subsequent excavations brought to light the past glories of the two great cities, Harappa and Mohenjodaro, built of burnt bricks and including well-constructed houses, a regular city plan, and an elaborate covered drainage system which might be the envy of many modern cities. Contacts with dated phases of Mesopotamian civilization showed that the cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were flourishing before and after 2350 B.C. After this great discovery the Indus Valley at once took its place with Mesopotamia and Egypt as the home of one of the oldest evolved civilizations of the world.

In this field much work still remains to be done before our understanding of the cultural implications of this civilization can approach completeness. But it is evident from the excavated material that this civilization was essentially indigenous in character.

The economy of Harappa was based upon the fertile margins of major rivers and the easy transportation which the rivers afforded. With these advantages it was possible to produce and distribute a surplus which enabled the inhabitants to acquire necessary or desirable commodities such as metals from abroad. Further investigations have also indicated that the two principal sites of the Indus Valley, Harappa and Mohenjodaro, were the seats of a centralised government which, however, different in detail, must have resembled generally that of autocratic priest-hoods or priest-kings who combined the secular and religious administration. It is now well established that both at Harappa and Mohenjodaro there were strongly fortified citadels which must have formed the strong-holds of the administration. At Harappa, the picture is enlarged by the lines of workmen's dwellings, burnt-brick working-floors, and granaries which lie like an organised establishment in the shadow of the citadel and remind us again of the granaries, workshops, and bakeries, which were manned by servile workers and administered by the temple-rulers of Ur in Mesopotamia. It still remains at the Indus sites to discover the temple buildings which, by analogy, may have dominated the scene there also. The apparent absence of temples in the Indus Valley cities is surprising, but there may, of course, have been small shrines scattered about whose

ground plans make them indistinguishable from ordinary houses.

In addition to the two large cities of the Indus Valley more than 75 smaller sites, at one time presumably subordinate in status, have been identified between the Makran coast and the foot of the northern hills. The distance between these two extreme points is more than a 1000 miles, so that in area the Indus civilization exceeded its contemporaries in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Iran.

HARAPPA SITE

The site of Harappa is bigger than Mohenjodaro. The mounds lie along the old bank of the River Ravi and form a right angled triangle with rectangular extensions. The village of Harappa is close to the site whereas in Mohenjodaro, there is nothing within a mile and half of the ancient remains. But the most unfortunate part about Harappa is that it fell into the hands of brick-diggers. The intensity of damage to the site came when the railway track between Lahore and Multan was laid. The contractors who worked on the line took for ballast as much building material as they could. This vandalism must be considered one of the greatest losses to our archaeology. If Harappa had remained intact to the same extent as Mohenjodaro, there is no doubt that it would have proved a great source of information as well as a significant addition to our knowledge of the Indus Valley culture. However, at Harappa, on a level piece of ground which never attracted the attention of the vandals, we have been lucky enough to uncover a cemetery in which the mortal remains of the ancient inhabitants of the Indus Valley have been found. These skeletal remains give an idea



Terracotta Jewellery

Terracotta Toys



of the people. Animal remains from Harappa tell us of the beasts that roamed about the land. Wherever excavations have been carried out in these remains at Harappa, they have brought to light fragmentary remains of walls and houses and we never get anything like the complete plans of houses and streets as at Mohenjodaro. Nevertheless, it was at Harappa that in spite of the absence of building plans, the chief characteristics of the Indus Valley civilization were first brought to light. At Harappa, excavations have



Terracotta Figurines of Mother Goddess

revealed evidence of some pre-Harappa material which shows strong affinity with the Kot Diji material. Again from cemetery H, we have important evidence of the post-Harappa period.

GENERAL LAY-OUT

Excavations at Harappa indicate that the general layout of the city was comparable with that of Mohenjodaro. The city, which was upwards of three miles in circuit, consisted of two parts: the lofty citadel Mound AB, towards the west; and a much more extensive but somewhat lower part, Mound E, to the east. The citadel mound is a parallelogram, over 400 yards from north to south and 300 yards from east to west, with a height of 40 ft. To its north, the low-lying area covered with green crops marks the old bed of the Ravi. At present the river flows six miles towards the north. Between the citadel mound and the river bed stands another mound called Mound F, containing a number of important building remains; to the south of the citadel mound lie the Harappa period cemetery R 37 and the post-Harappa cemetery H. To the south-east are the partially excavated area 'G' and the unexplored Mound 'F'.

The citadel mound ringed by a fortification wall, rises slightly from south to north. Here buildings stood upon a mud-brick platform 20-25 ft. above the ground-level. The first construction on the site was started on four thick layers of alluvium. Above these lay an about two feet thick occupation level which yielded pottery types showing affinity with the Kot Diji period pottery with painted necks in broad style. Over these pre-Harappan occupation levels, which were partially cut away by water action, the Harappans constructed their buildings in the citadel. The water

cuttings were filled with mud-bricks and were carried up to form an anti-flood bund, spreading beyond the outer foot of a defensive system 45 ft. wide at the base and tapering upwards. The inner part of the wall was of mud-brick and externally it was strengthened by a 4-7 ft. thick burnt-brick facing. Inside the citadel area, excavations have revealed six occupation levels one above the other indicating a long period of prosperity and then decline.

At regular intervals, the citadel defences were provided with rectangular watch-towers. The main gate-way appears to have been on the northern side, but this has not yet been cleared. On the western side a curved passage with a tower, led to a ramp approaching the entrance. At the southern end of this inlet there appears to have been a flight of steps leading up on the citadel.

The excavated building remains in the citadel area show that it was thickly populated, but the disturbed conditions made it difficult for the excavators to recognize any intelligent plan of the residential quarters. In the centre of eastern part, a burnt-brick covered drain flowed down the street east-wards; a double-ringed well was uncovered on the southern side; and forty large pottery jars lay embedded in ground in a single row by the side of a building. The remaining building remains in the citadel area are of fragmentary nature.

MOUND 'F'

North of citadel Mound AB, is Mound F. It is about 20 ft. high and 300 yds. square beside the old river bed.



Terracotta Pottery



Paste objects



Here three important building groups came to light. Towards the south, close to the citadel, is a double row of workmen's quarters. Towards the north, are five rows of circular burnt-brick working platforms and beyond is the Great Granary. These series of buildings show well thought out planning and it may be that they are of one period.

WORKMEN'S QUARTERS

Two rows of oblong buildings, seven in the northern line and eight in the southern appear to be workmen's dwellings. On front and back, they are separated by 3-4 ft.

wide lanes, and were enclosed by a compound wall, traces of which survive on the northern and southern sides. Each quarter measured 56 x 24 ft. and was entered through a curved passage which provided privacy. The accommodation was limited. It consisted of three rooms and a small court-yard.

FURNACES

On the western side of the workmen's quarters sixteen pear-shaped brick lined furnaces, 3 ft. to 6 ft. in length were uncovered. The heat generated by burning cow-dung and charcoal produced intense vitrification of the inside brick lining.



Shell objects



A red stone torso

WORKMEN'S PLATFORMS

To the north of the workmen's quarters eighteen circular brick platforms were unearthed. These are 10 ft. 9 in. to 11 ft. in diameter, and are built of five concentric rings of bricks-on-edge, round a central hole which held the wooden mortar for pounding grain. Fragments of straw, charred wheat and husked barley were found in the central hole of one of the platforms.

THE GREAT GRANARY

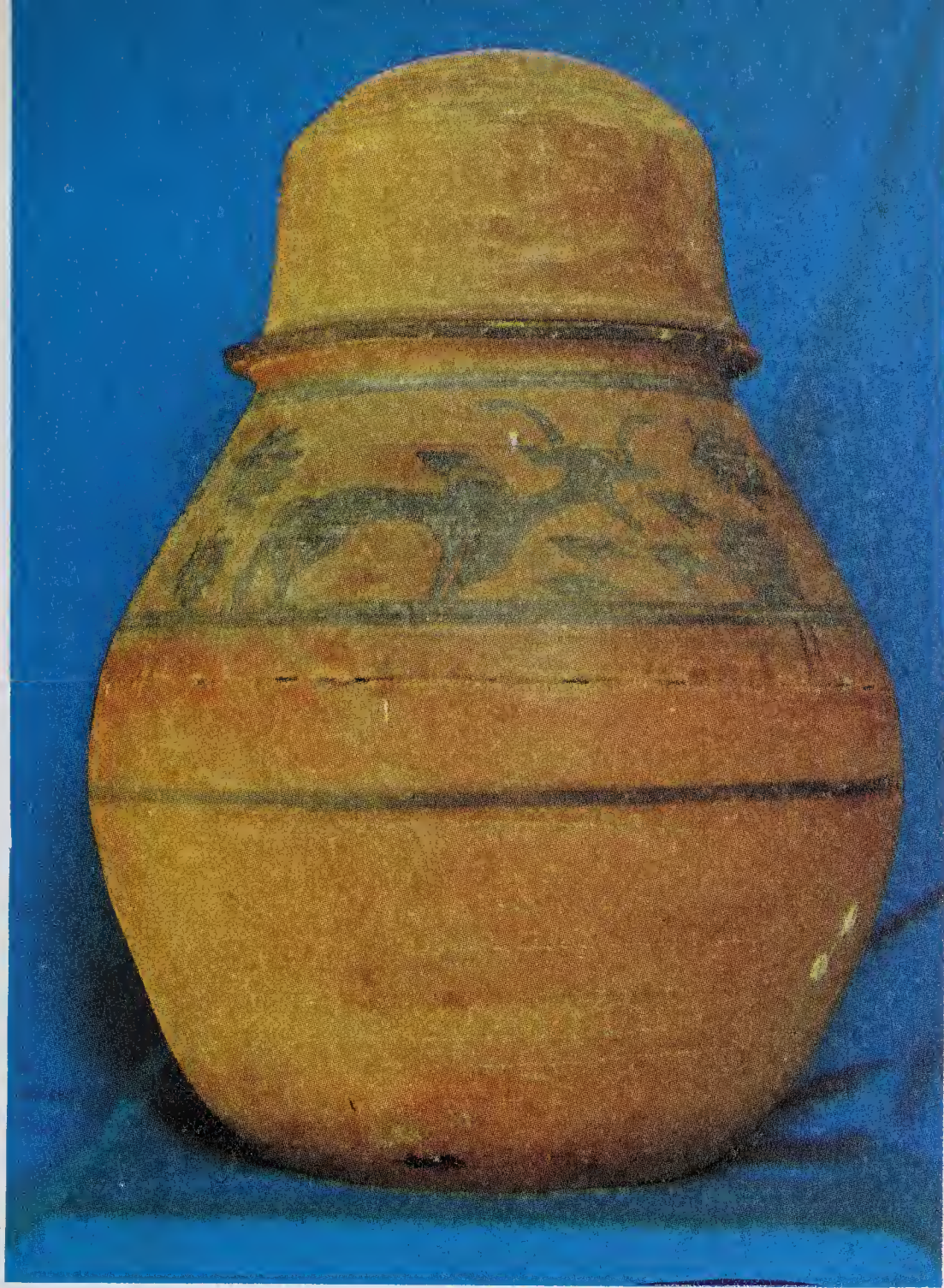
North of the workmen's platforms and south of the old river bed is the remarkable building complex of the granary area. The granary consists of two parts: each 50 x 20 ft. and arranged in two rows with a 23 ft. wide passage in the centre. The granary blocks were built upon a 4 ft. high battered mud-platform lined on eastern, western and southern sides with burnt-bricks. The approach to the granary appears to have been from the river bank. The granary building is likely to have been a treasury for grain received by the State or the Municipal Administration.

BUILDINGS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The roofs of buildings of the Indus Valley cities which were flat and made of wood, reed and mud plaster, have all perished. But the solidly built walls, often 5 ft. thick, show clearly the lay-out of comfortable and well-designed houses. The average size is 35 ft. by 35 ft., comprising several fair-sized rooms grouped round a central courtyard. Majority of the houses were at least two storeys high. As we wander through the doors of these houses, we get an impression of solid comfort. The feeling is something like walking round a half-built house and trying to work out what the various



Skeleton with Grave Pottery



Burial Jar

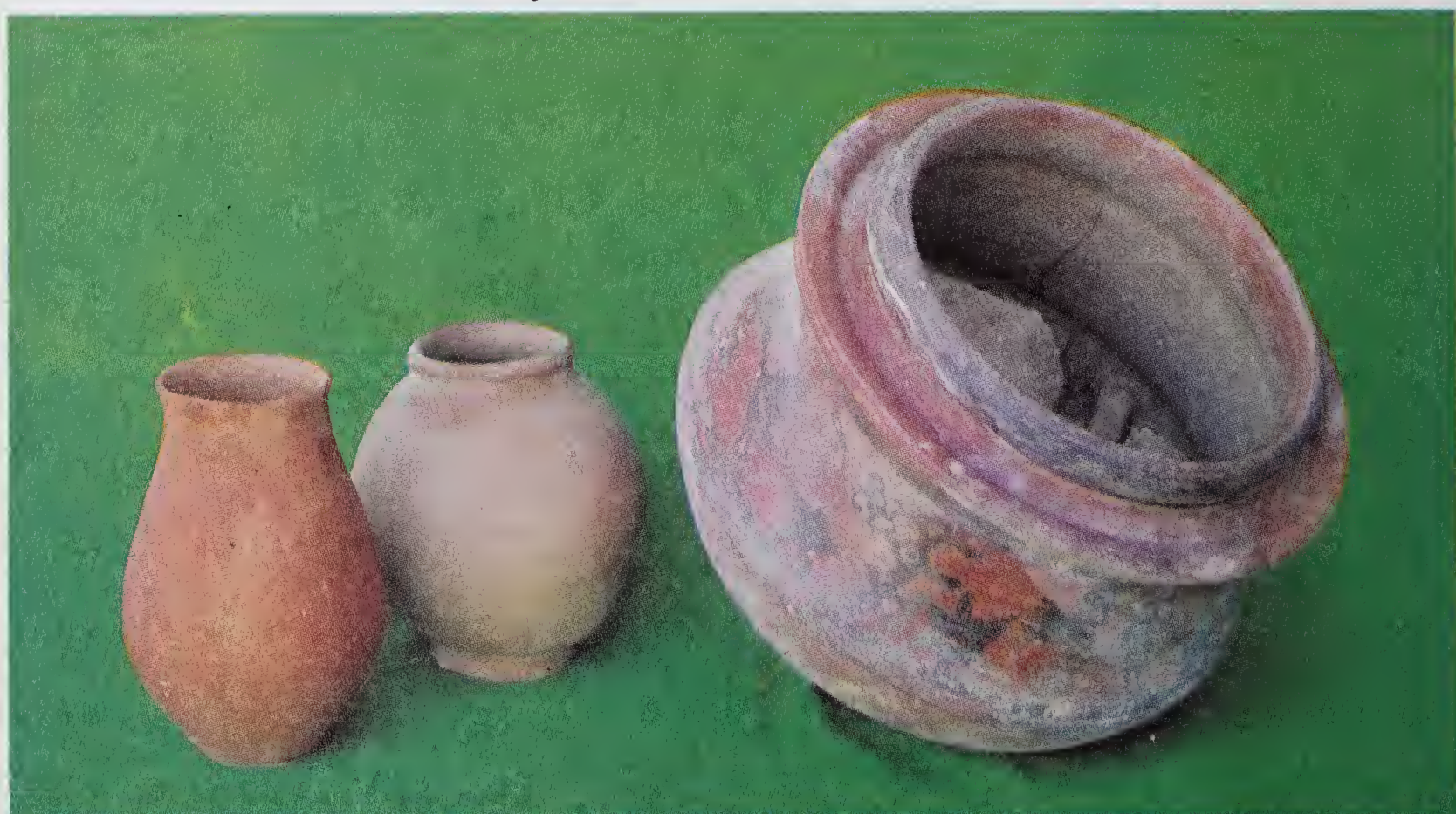
rooms would be used for. Here is a bath-room with its circular well and smooth-paved floor sloping off to the bricked-in drain which leads to large covered drain flowing down every street.

Drains are hardly romantic, but those of the Indus Valley cities are among their chief glories. The system is certainly the most complete ancient system as yet discovered. A brick-lined channel flowed down every street, and into this main drain ran small tributary drains from the



Burial Pottery

Burial Pot and Grave Pottery



houses on either side. The drains were covered over with bricks laid a few inches below the street level, which could be easily lifted which it became necessary to inspect or clean the channel underneath. The drain-water from the various houses was not permitted to flow into the street drain direct, but had first to enter a cess-pit in which was deposited the solid matter. When the pit was three-quarters full, the water flowed into the main drain, and by this method the street drains were prevented from over-flowing.

From their foundations the cities of the Indus Valley appear to have been laid out in accordance with some pre-arranged scheme. The streets run in straight lines, and are crossed by others at right angles. It is, of course, impossible to say whether a civic body or a single official supervised the building activities, but they were evidently in very competent hands, and it is interesting to note that the Indus Valley cities are the earliest examples yet discovered where a scheme of town-planning existed. Every-where the impression is of order and symmetry. Building regulations seem to have been strictly enforced, and the greatest care was taken to prevent any structure from encroaching upon the streets. The streets were all aligned from east to west or from north to south for the reason that the prevailing winds always come from north-south quarters. Some of the main streets of Mohenjodaro are of considerable size.

Nine times, over a period of several hundred years, Harappa was built. The ancient city was finally deserted at about 1800 B.C. Its abandonment was due to the shifting

of the course of the river Ravi upon the banks of which it once stood.

THE PEOPLE

Who were the people who built Harappa? No definite answer can be given to this question at present, though it is certain that they were of a pre-Aryan racial stock for their city flourished thousand years before any Aryan-speaking people had entered the sub-continent, an event which took place according to the modern ruling about 1500 B.C. It may be that the Indus Valley people were invaders, as their settlements have been found in Baluchistan, but in any case it is probable that they were already highly civilised before they entered the country, and their culture appears to have been superior to that of Elam and Sumer.

Whatever the origin of the Indus Valley people may have been, it is certain that they had lived for considerable time in the Indus Valley. Not only do their exceptionally well-built cities bear witness to this fact, but further corroboration is also to be found in various aspects of their religion, which included "Mother Goddess", tree and animal worship.

RACIAL ELEMENTS

The skeletal remains discovered at Harappa and Mohenjodaro belong to heterogeneous races. Both the cities appear to have been of cosmopolitan character, which is not quite unexpected of them as they had a floating population owing to their commercial character. In an extensive valley like the Indus with its flank open to the intrusion of other races and the interior occupied from immemorial

times by races in comparatively lower stages of development, racial purity cannot be expected, and the fusion of different ethnic elements must have been the rule from the earliest times. The main stock of the people consisted of the members of the long-headed race which had affinities with the people of the Mediterranean. The Austro-Asiatic element in the population can be accounted for by trading connections with the people of the west coast and the south of the sub-continent from where important materials, such as carnelian, amazonite and conch shell were obtained. The slight Mongolian element may be accounted for by the gradual infiltration from the north-east in which direction the Indus Valley does not possess any impregnable land frontier. The broad headed type must be accounted for by the intrusion of Alpine people from the Central Asiatic highlands, who have from time to time imposed their dominance on the inhabitants of the Indus Valley and Baluchistan.

CEMETERY R. 37

Excavations at Harappa to the south of the citadel mound brought to light a regular cemetery R. 37 of Harappa period. The bodies were extended from north to south, the head towards the north. The burials contained large collections of pots numbering fifteen to forty. The dead wore ornaments, shell bangles, necklaces, anklets of paste beads, a copper finger ring, an earring of thin copper wire. Toilet articles included handled copper mirrors, antimony rods, shell spoons and mother of pearl shells. One of the burials contained a pottery lamp and bones of a fowl.

Two of the burials showed interesting features. One of them was internally lined with mud-bricks. In the other burial the body, probably of a female, had been buried in a wooden coffin seven feet long and two and a half feet wide. A copper ring was found in the middle finger of the right hand; a shell ring lay to the left shoulder. The burial contained thirty-seven pottery vessels; only one was inside the coffin; the remaining lay near and against its head.

CEMETERY 'H'

South of the citadel mound, a post-Harappan period cemetery has been brought to light. The burials are too meagre to be considered as typical of the main body of the population, and must, therefore, be regarded as pertaining to a small section of the citizens of Harappa. They fall in two categories, referable to an earlier and a later strata of occupation. As we know that the racial elements, of which the population was composed, were manifold and probably varied from period to period. It is possible to assume that the complete and fractional burials were typical of distinct classes of people. The lower stratum of burials show examples of complete inhumation, in which the body was laid generally with hands turned up, the knees bent and the heads towards east or north-east, surrounded by a quantity of pottery, jars, cups, dishes and bowls.

By far the largest number of examples of burials found in the upper stratum of cemetery H, where over a hundred jars containing skulls and bones, constitute a system of fractional burials. Only babies were enclosed complete, in the embryonic position. The jar mouths were closed by lids or by pots.

The large number of jar burials found in the upper stratum are apparently of a later date and from the fact that the skulls and bones were found in them show no signs of being burnt. It has been suggested that the bodies were exposed to the birds and the bones collected later for inhumation. If this view is correct, then we have here a link with the burial customs of the Parsis, but the other circumstances do not square up with the supposition that a cognate people were inhabiting the Indus cities.

The pottery associated with the funeral remains unearthed from cemetery H is of a distinct type, which cannot be paralleled with the examples from the ordinary pottery in use in the Harappa culture cities. The decorations, vegetable patterns and animal representations are peculiar, and the forms of the vessels are also unlike those represented in the pottery in regular daily use. Certain animal designs depict composite representations; deer with long horns, and antlers and peacocks. The presence of peacocks on these funerary vessels indicates that they were in some way connected with the ideas of the after-life and in some cases are supposed to have carried away the souls of the dead.

THE ANTIQUITIES

The objects recovered from the ruined city of Harappa carry the story of our ancient land still further. In pottery there is everything from huge storage jars down through a wide range of household utensils to tiny delicate domestic containers. The pottery is wheel-made and well fired and generally shows a thick red fabric, often treated with a bright red slip. The plain types include offering-stands,

beakers, cups and saucers, goblets, dishes, basins, ladles, heaters, cooking pots, water pitchers and heavy storage jars for grains. Though the plain types predominate, painted-ware is not uncommon. The painted designs are executed in black on dark-red slip and consist of foliated and geometrical devices, among which the inter-locking circle, vase, comb and scale motifs are commonest.

The most characteristic of all the objects that have been found at the Indus Valley cities are the seals and sealings. The majority of the seals are of steatite stone and bear the representation of an animal and one or two lines of pictographic writing, which has not yet been deciphered. The script appears very much the same on all the seals, irrespective of whether they were unearthed at high or low levels of the two cities, which seems to indicate little advance on the part of the people who flourished for over five hundred years. The frequent appearance of “Unicorn”, short-horned bull, buffalo, tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and crocodile, animals which inhabit a damp jungle country, suggests that the Indus Valley once had a much heavier rainfall than it has at present. This theory is supported by the use of burnt-bricks for all parts of buildings exposed to the weather, while sun-dried bricks were considered good enough for indoor work. It is the seals, however, which have enabled the excavators to fix a date for the Indus Valley Civilization. Some Indus Valley seals found in Mesopotamian sites have helped to establish close connection between the two cultures.

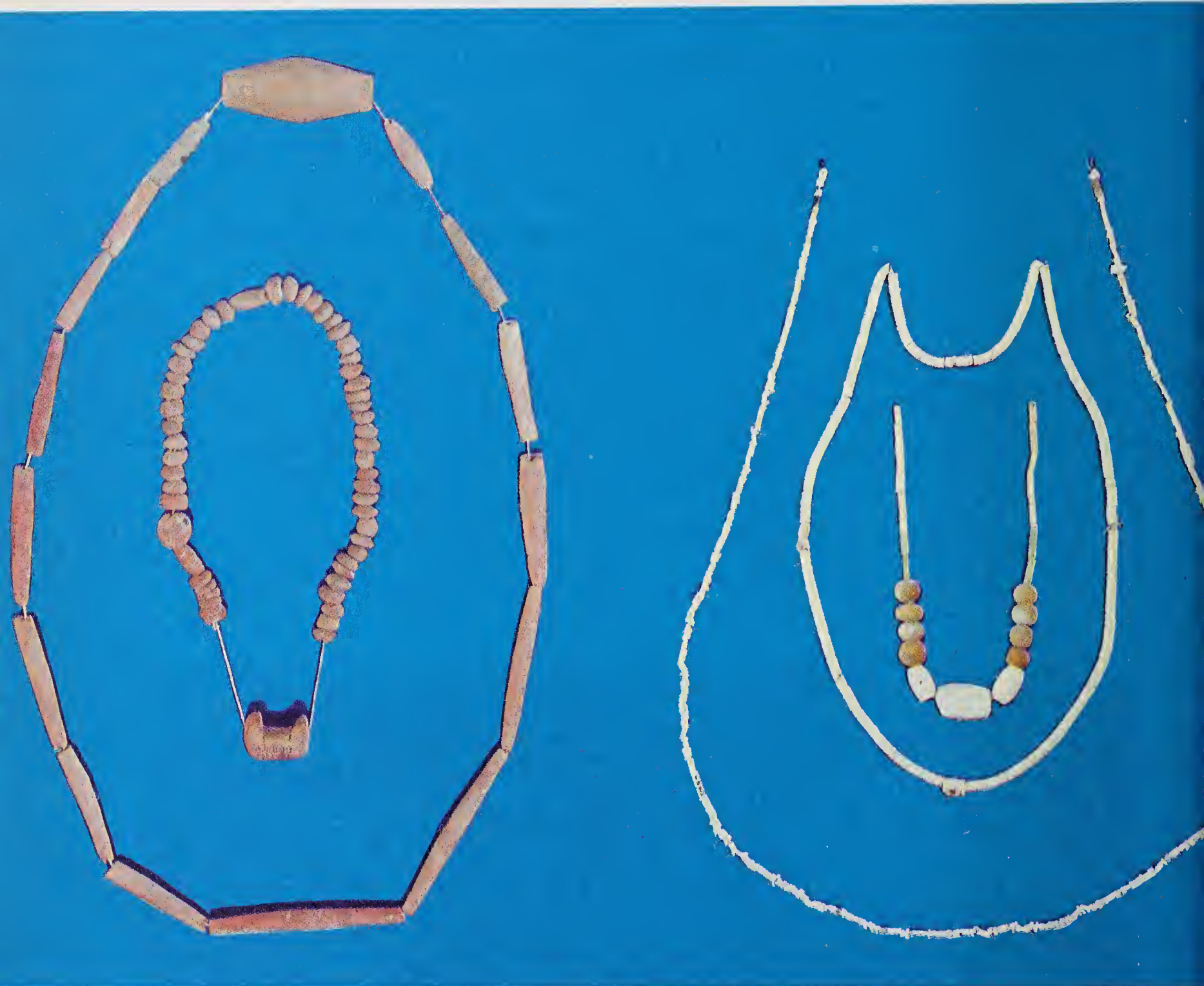
Iron was still unknown to the people of the Indus Valley but beautiful copper and bronze domestic utensils, implements and weapons, statues and ornaments have been

discovered in large numbers. There is a mirror of copper which, when highly polished, had to do for the still undiscovered glass. There are chisels, axes, saw, knives, spear and arrow heads. A copper razor, like a small rounded chopper with thin handle, must have needed careful handling on mornings when the hand shook. There are fish-hooks, needles, a copper frying pan and even a dinner dish with cover.

Shell was extensively used in the manufacture of dippers, cups, ladles, balls, gamesmen, beads, discs, ornaments, and for inlay in wooden objects. It is not known how pieces of inlay were fretted out. The favourite designs included petals, leaf, steeped patterns, cross crescent, heart and eye shapes.



Steatite Seals



Bone and ivory objects comprise casting-sticks, handles, combs, gamesmen, and collyrium sticks. The casting-sticks were presumably used by the fortune-tellers.

STATUETTES

Statuary in stone show a high standard of workmanship and display many distinctive features. There is a red sand stone torso of a standing nude male. The figure is

3.9 in. high and 2.4 in. across the chest. It is carved in the round. Its arms and legs are damaged. Every detail has been worked out with wonderful realism and artistic skill. Though ante-dating the Greco-Roman statuary by about 2000 years it can easily stand comparison to it. The slightly pronounced belly, the suppleness of the body and depressed chest depict it to be the portrayal of the physique of a middle-aged person. The tube drill sockets in the arm-pits and on the neck were intended for fitting on to them arms and head which were carved into separate pieces. This technique is not known either in the Greco-Roman or Gandhara art. The tube drill sockets in the nipples were in all probability for shell or faience inlay. The figure presents a perfect specimen of high class miniature statuary.

There is another dark grey stone torso of a male dancer measuring 3.8 in. high and 1.5 in. across the chest. It also bears tube-drill sockets for the fixation of arms and head. The tiny incisions at the nipples and the nape were like-wise designed for shell or faience inlay. No less for the exquisite beauty of its pose than for the wonderfully realistic execution of its details, this little statue is a masterpiece of ancient glyptic art.

Of the large number of terracotta human figurines found at Harappa, the majority are female, nude, except for a narrow girdle round the hips. Many of them wear a distinctive fan-like head-dress at the back of the head and are bedecked with profuse jewellery. Their similar features and frequency favour the belief that they were sacred images, probably representing the "Great Mother Goddess", whose images are found in large numbers in Iran, Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Animal figurines are found in large numbers. The majority are apparently toys for children. The commonest model animals are the short-horned and Brahmani bulls. Next to bull in frequency come the rhinoceros, buffalo, tiger, pig, dog and monkey. Among the aquatic animals are the crocodile and turtle, while birds include the duck, peacock, hen, dove and a flying bird of unknown species. Some of the model animals are so life-like and charming that they would look very well in any modern house.

Evidence of the practical side of Harappa civilization includes some "flesh rubbers" in terracotta used for washing clothes and scrubbing the skin. Small terracotta spinning wheels show that cotton must have been grown and spun. And weights and measures, when tested, revealed an elaborate and detailed system.

The people were undoubtedly flesh-eaters, for the remains of the stag, buffalo, pig, turtle, goat and ox have all been found during the digging operations. Wheat grains 5,000 year old, have been also dug up to show what sort of crops were cultivated. They grew barley as well as the date-palm.

Personal ornaments there are of many materials; terracotta and shell bracelets, rings of copper and bronze, and varieties of beads. The ornaments of the rich are made of the precious metals or of copper, sometimes overlaid with gold, of faience, ivory, carnelian and other stones; for the poor they are usually of shell or terracotta.



Gamesmen

Necklace, fillets, armlets, bangles and finger rings were worn by both sexes; girdles, ear-rings, nose studs, conical head ornaments and anklets exclusively by women.

Finally, the most amazing evidence, in all this array of the degree of luxury attained by the people of Harappa, are their toys. A hollow clay ball with pebbles inside makes a rattle. There are terracotta animals with movable heads, marbles, dice, gamesmen, toy-birds and a toy-cart not different from the type of bullock cart still in use in the Indus Valley today.

PROBABLE CAUSES OF THE END OF HARAPPA-MOHENJODARO CIVILIZATION

The progressive desiccation of the Indus Valley seems to have been one of the causes of the decay and desertion of the Harappa culture cities. The growing dangers of

floods may also have been responsible for the evacuation of cities like Harappa and Mohenjodaro, both situated on river banks. There is remarkable dearth of weapons of defence and war, and it is probable that these rich cities with their unwarlike mercantile population, were sacked by the invading tribes from the neighbouring hills. The decline in material prosperity may also have accelerated the end.

DATE

The date of the Indus Valley Civilization has been fixed with some certainty, for certain objects found during the excavations in Mesopotamia have been identified as of Indus Valley workmanship. It is enough to say that the



Bronze Utensil

ancient levels of Mohenjodaro are contemporaneous with the Early Dynastic Period of Babylonia, about 2500—1800 B.C. This dating is now accepted by most authorities, but it must be remembered that it depends on Mesopotamian chronology, and that any modification of the latter must entail a corresponding re-dating of the Indus Valley finds.

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